
Arms Trade Treaty
Eleventh Conference of States Parties
Geneva, 25 – 29 August 2025

DRAFT DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GENDER FOCAL POINTS (GFPS) UNDER THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

(Annex of the ATT Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation Chair's Report to CSP11)

BACKGROUND

1. The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), under Article 7.4, requires State Parties to consider, as part of its export risk assessment, the risk of conventional arms, covered under Article 2 (1) or of the items covered under Article 3 or Article 4, being used to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence (GBV) or serious acts of violence against women and children.

2. At its Fifth Conference of States Parties (CSP5), the ATT addressed three primary areas: gender balance in representation, the gendered impact of armed violence and conflict, and GBV-related risk assessments under Articles 6 and 7 ([ATT/CSP5/2019/PRES/528/Conf.GenderGBV](#)). CSP5 adopted a series of decisions encouraging gender-balanced delegations and panels, the systematic inclusion of gender considerations in the work of ATT Working Groups, and the collection of gender-disaggregated data ([ATT/CSP5/2019/SEC/536/Conf.FinRep.Rev1](#)). The Conference also underscored the need for enhanced clarity on the implementation of Article 7(4), the exchange of national practices, and the development of voluntary guidance and training on GBV. States Parties and recipients of Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) support were encouraged to integrate gender and GBV considerations into their activities, with a view to contributing to the object and purpose of the Treaty and to reviewing progress on a regular basis.

3. In the following years, several proposals were presented to further advance gender mainstreaming and the prevention of GBV under the ATT:

- Joint Statement at CSP9 by Mexico and the Netherlands: "[Gender Mainstreaming and Addressing Gender-Based Violence under the Arms Trade Treaty](#)".
- Working Paper at CSP9 by Argentina: "[Towards a Guide to Good Practices](#)".
- CSP9 Final Report ([ATT/CSP9/2023/SEC/773/Conf.FinRep.Rev2](#)): Encourage States Parties to keep the risk of conventional arms being used to commit or facilitate serious acts of GBV or serious acts of violence against women and children as an important topic of attention.

4. At its Tenth Conference of States Parties (CSP10), the ATT welcomed the working paper submitted by Mexico on behalf of several States Parties concerning gender mainstreaming and the prevention of GBV within the framework of the Treaty ([ATT/CSP10/2024/MEX/808/Conf.WP](#)). The Conference reaffirmed the decisions adopted at CSP5 and encouraged the continued exchange of national experiences and good practices aimed at preventing arms-related GBV, in support of the effective implementation of Articles 6 and 7 of the Treaty ([ATT/CSP10/2024/SEC/807/Conf.FinRep](#)). Among other measures, CSP10 agreed to consider the appointment of Gender Focal Points as a means to promote the systematic integration of gender perspectives into the work of the ATT.

5. During the meetings of the ATT Working Groups in February 2025, Mexico presented a proposal to establish Gender Focal Points, with the aim of supporting the implementation of recommendations adopted since CSP5 and advancing the integration of gender perspectives across the work of the Treaty's Working Groups. To this end, it was suggested that the ATT Secretariat conduct consultations with relevant stakeholders to define the role and the process for the appointment of Gender Focal Points during the current ATT cycle. Several countries expressed support for the proposal and agreed on the importance of initiating transparent and inclusive consultations.

6. The first consultation was held on 2 May and featured presentations by the Gender Focal Point of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), the former Gender Focal Point of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and the Director of the Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). While acknowledging the distinct mandates and operational contexts of each instrument, the presenters collectively underscored the critical role of Gender Focal Points in ensuring the systematic integration of gender perspectives across all phases of treaty implementation, including the design, execution, monitoring, and evaluation of relevant measures.

7. During the preparatory meeting for the CSP held in May 2025, the value of the proposal to establish Gender Focal Points was broadly acknowledged, and it was agreed to continue advancing work on its design and implementation. Several delegations emphasized the proposal's alignment with the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda and its significance in promoting gender mainstreaming within the framework of the Treaty. Expressions of support were voiced by delegations from all regions, and no delegation expressed opposition.

8. In July 2025, a second consultation was held, which confirmed the broad, cross-regional support for establishing Gender Focal Points as a practical means to advance the Treaty's commitments. The discussion among State Parties, observers, and civil society focused on the operational aspects. Delegations engaged in a constructive dialogue on key procedural questions, particularly concerning the most appropriate body to facilitate the appointment process and the mechanisms for reporting, including a proposal to introduce a dedicated agenda item during the CSP for the reporting of the Gender Focal Points' activities. Mexico welcomed the valuable feedback and invited further written contributions to refine the final proposal ahead of its formal consideration.

9. The crucial role of civil society throughout the entire process should be underscored, as their continued support has been instrumental in advancing gender mainstreaming and addressing GBV under the ATT. This is evidenced by the contributions from organizations such as Small Arms Survey, Control Arms, UNIDIR, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

DRAFT DECISION

10. In view of all the work carried out, since CSP5, and having analyzed the various implications of establishing Gender Focal Points within the framework of the ATT, CSP11 decided as follows:

1. Appointment

1.1. Gender Focal Points are voluntary positions identified by the Management Committee as part of its discussions on the implementation of CSP decisions and formally approved by the Conference of States Parties. Appointees will serve for two years and may be reappointed. The Committee, with the support of the Secretariat, shall identify at least one Gender Focal Point, but may designate multiple representatives if more than one State Party agrees to act as a Focal Point.

1.2 The appointment of Gender Focal Points will be guided by the following principles to ensure continuity, flexibility, and broad participation:

- **Voluntary:** The role of Gender Focal Points is entirely voluntary. States Parties interested in serving are encouraged to express their interest to the Management Committee.
- **Term:** Gender Focal Points shall be identified by the Management Committee for a term of two years, corresponding to two Conference of States Parties (CSP) cycles.
- **Reappointment and Rotation:** Incumbent Gender Focal Points are eligible for reappointment. The Management Committee should promote rotation among interested States Parties over successive terms, to promote equitable regional representation.
- **Shared Roles:** To distribute workload, enhance collaboration and boost effectiveness, the role may be held by a single State Party or shared by multiple States Parties serving as Gender Focal Points.
- **Unforeseen Circumstances:** Any issues not addressed by these principles may be considered and resolved by the Management Committee, in consultation with the President of the ATT and the States Parties with the support of the Secretariat.

2. Purpose and activities

2.1 The Gender Focal Points shall promote the systematic integration of gender perspectives across all ATT processes to support the Treaty's effective implementation, including by adopting a human rights-based approach that recognizes the differentiated impacts of armed violence based on gender.

2.2 The work of the Gender Focal Points shall be aligned with commitments and decisions adopted at Conferences of States Parties (CSPs), notably CSP5, CSP9 and CSP10, and take into account possible future commitments adopted at subsequent CSPs.

2.3 In accordance with relevant CSP decisions, the Gender Focal Points may undertake the following activities, among others:

- a) **Provide cooperative advice and support to States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under Articles 6 and 7 of the Treaty**, including by promoting discussions among interested actors to assist in interpreting key language and standards in Article 7(4). This can include disseminating existing tools, voluntary guidance, and good practices for conducting GBV risk assessments, as encouraged by CSP5 and reaffirmed at CSP10;
- b) **Contribute, whenever possible, to relevant Working Group discussions** to, *inter alia*, enhance understanding of the gendered impacts of armed violence in the ATT context and promote the integration of gender perspectives across all areas of the Treaty;
- c) **Facilitate inclusive dialogue and exchanges** on challenges, progress and good practices in implementing gender-related ATT provisions, Working Group recommendations, and CSP decisions;
- d) **Support dialogues, knowledge exchange, and peer learning** on implementing gender-related ATT provisions and CSP commitments, and encourage integrating these into relevant National Action Plans (NAPs), such as those related to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda;
- e) **Assist the work of the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF)** by providing advice and support to applicants and to the Selection Committee when requested, to support the inclusion of gender and GBV considerations in funded projects and national policies, where relevant;
- f) **Support efforts to achieve gender balance and full, equal, meaningful, and effective participation of women** in delegations, panels, and meetings;
- g) **Support States Parties and the ATT Secretariat in reviewing and reporting progress on gender and GBV provisions of the Treaty by State Parties on an ongoing basis**, including through the encouragement of voluntary sharing of updates, national practices, and disaggregated data;

- h) **Convene meetings with interested stakeholders**, as needed, to address emerging issues, enhance coordination, and share lessons learned, including through exchanges with Gender Focal Points from other disarmament and related international mechanisms.
- i) **Contribute to the annual CSP cycle** by establishing a standing agenda item to, where relevant, share updates on key achievements, challenges, and lessons learned in relation to the work of the Gender Focal Points, with the aim of strengthening transparency, institutional memory, and the continuous advancement of gender-related commitments under the ATT.

3. Adoption and Amendments

3.1 Once approved by the CSP11, these provisions are effective until amended in writing with the agreement of the States Parties at a subsequent CSP or by a Review Conference.
